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1028 Letelier
Cr. Inv

[REDACTED]
8 May 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

OS/SI&SG

FROM: [REDACTED]

Assistant General Counsel
Litigation Division, OGC

SUBJECT: Renewed Interest in Prosecuting Former
Chilean Intelligence Officers for Letelier
Assassination [REDACTED]

1. The District of Columbia U.S. Attorney's Office has requested an opportunity to review CIA files relating to two former Chilean intelligence officers, Juan Manuel CONTRERAS Sepulveda and Pedro ESPINOSA Bravo, for the 1976 assassination in Washington, D.C. of former Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier. The prosecutors [REDACTED] request to review CIA files to assist them in determining whether a prosecution will damage the national security by requiring disclosure of classified information. (S)

2. Contreras apparently helped organize the Chilean intelligence service (DINA), and Espinosa is a former operations director of that service. Your assistance is requested in locating DO and OS records on Contreras and Espinosa. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Dubelier advised me that prosecutors reviewed CIA files on these two individuals approximately ten years ago in connection with another related case. My review of OGC holdings indicates that this other case was most likely U.S. v. Michael Vernon Townley, which was active in the 1978-1979 timeframe. It is possible that materials reviewed by previous prosecutors exists in DO or OS holdings in connection with the Townley case. (S)

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

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3. Espinosa, Contreras, and another Chilean intelligence officer, Fernandez Larios, were also indicted by a U.S. grand jury in 1978. The Chilean Government twice refused to extradite Espinosa and Contreras, although Larios ultimately voluntarily traveled to the U.S. in 1987 and pleaded guilty. Relevant OS and DO records may be filed in connection with that case. If those records cannot be located, current DO and OS holdings should be located and sanitized for review. OGC will retrieve from archival storage its records related to these previous cases and will inform you if we locate copies of any previously reviewed DO or OS records. (S)

4. Another case related to the Letelier assassination, U.S. v. Suarez, was concluded in 1990. It is my understanding that although the prosecutors in the Suarez case reviewed CIA records relating to Suarez and another individual, they did not review records relating to Espinosa and Contreras. (S)

5. The prosecutors have not set a firm deadline for their review of CIA records. The timing of CIA's response is obviously related to the success of efforts to locate previously reviewed files. The prosecutors have also requested that the State Department determine whether a request to expedite will meet a favorable or unfavorable reaction from the Chilean Government. If extradition proves impossible, a review of CIA files by the prosecutors would appear moot, and we will raise that issue with them if necessary. Although OGC seeks to avoid unnecessary internal review and sanitization of records, CIA should not defer its efforts to locate responsive records pending a response by the State Department to the prosecutors' request concerning the feasibility of extradition. (S)

6. Please call me at secure extension [REDACTED] if you have any questions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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DCI/OGC [REDACTED]

13 May 91/77998

[REDACTED]
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